

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant proposes to amend Claim 4, and cancel Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 21. Upon entry of the proposed amendment, only independent Claim 4 will remain for consideration.

In the Final Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 1-4, 6-8, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook et al. in view of Herbranson and Lake. The cancellation of Claims 1-3, 6-8, and 21 by the present amendment serves to render these particular grounds of rejection moot. The Examiner indicated that Claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In this regard , Applicant has amended independent Claim 4 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 5. Applicant respectfully submits that for at least this reason, amended independent Claim 4 is allowable over the prior art applied of record.

The proposed amendment and response do not raise any new issues that require further consideration and/or search and is a bona fide effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of the present application. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the proposed amendment be entered and that this application be favorably considered by the Examiner.

Application Serial No.: 10/602,055
Art Unit: 3739

Attorney Docket No. 9052.01
Confirmation No. 7631

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard C. Litman
Registration No. 30,868
(703) 486-1000

RCL:DHT:wse

LITMAN LAW
OFFICES, LTD.
P.O. BOX 15035
ARLINGTON, VA 22215
(703) 486-1000